Extortions by militants in North-East

1548. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that in insurgency ridden North-Eastern States, black economy is thriving and major militants outfits have their own extortion territory;

(b) whether Government are also aware that in a study, the New Delhi based institute for Conflict Management has reported that the worth of undeclared transactions in the seven States was 18000 crore;

(c) whether Government are aware that the militant outfits are diverting funds of rural development and the commodities meant for PDS, in the open market; and

(d) if so, what Government propose to do to curb such activities in the North Eastern States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) Terrorist groups active in North Eastern States reportedly extort money. There is possibility that a portion of money allocated for developmental activities might be siphoned off by the militants in certain areas. Exact extent of undeclared transactions cannot be specified.

(d) Government have taken a number of steps to check the menace of extortion which, *inter alia,* includes payment of salaries by cheques and stregthening of security on the National Highways and major roads. State Government have been advised to ensure that funds are used for the purpose for which they are given.

Harassment of women

†1549. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any reduction in the cases of domestic violence and harassment against women during the last year; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.